Of Interest to Motorists

MOTORING IS BENEFICIAL TO CHILD HEALTH.

The automobile is one of the best friends of children. This statement applies to boys and girls in all parts of the country, but especially to those being brought up in urban communities. Parents are coming increasingly to recognize the automobile as a medium which makes for health and education of children. Even small babies are finding better chances to grow up, due to the motor age.

Take, for instance, the child in the city who does not get as much opportunity as his rural cousins to romp over open fields and play in the woods. It is becoming an ordinary occurrence for parents of such city children to drive out into the country spaces during the week end period where the children can enjoy these privileges which are always available to the country young folk. It is probable that city children get even more real recreation out of such an experience because they are enjoying a complete change, which is a valuable feature on an outing. They appreciate their opportunities and make the most of them, whereas the country children always having available these open spaces, fail to get the thrill of enjoying them which would obtain if they were less convenient.

How to bring up children in the city and at the same time keep them strong and healthy has always been a problem difficult for parents to solve. The automobile has presented a solution which is found satisfactory in thousands of instances. And while the parents have been engaged in driving their children into the country, the adult members of the family have also been acquiring added vitality which, but for their interest in their children's welfare, would not have been obtained. The healthy color which characterizes the countenances of many city children is definitely due in part to their motoring experiences.

Furthermore, the automobile is a markable educational medium for children. As they are driven through the open country, they come to know and appreciate country life and thus by coming close to nature learn many interesting things of value. They examine new plants, flowers, trees and stones; they study different kinds of birds and animals, they learn geological facts; many places which they visit have historical value and provide the basis of more instruction.

Another result of the general use of the automobile lies in the fact that it tends to keep the entire family together while enjoying their recreation. It is the usual thing for the parents and all of the children to take the automobile and go out for a ride together. This tendency to unity in family activity should be of benefit to the children, since it keeps them to a greater extent under the direct supervision of their parents instead of finding their recreation by themselves.

HEADS LOPPED OFF IN SHANGHAI

The Chinese authorities in Shanghai, who are opposed to the advancing Cantonese army, have started head chopping in an effort to end the general strike that is paralyzing the international city. The number of agitators decapitated is variously estimated as from 28 to 90. The photo shows a regular Chinese executioner bearing a sword that is said to hold a record for lopping off heads.

WATER AS GREATEST NATURAL RESOURCE

Of all the natural resources of Canada there are none so vast, so universally distributed and possibly so commercially important as her fresh water supplies. No other country, according to "Natural Resources," can even approach the Dominion with respect to the immensity of her fresh water areas. In fact Canada's areas of inland waters are said to be greater than those of all other countries of the world combined.

According to the same authority, this water supply has a definite commercial application of huge proportions, its contributions to the public commercial welfare falling under four heads, (1) navigable highways, (2) power and irrigation, (3) fisheries and (4) direct absorption in industrial processes to which, of course, must be added its indispensible application in the home.

Transportation.

The first transportation routes of Canada were the water routes and the first organized commercial development in this country—the fur trade—was entirely dependent on the country's river and lake systems. To-day the amount of water borne commerce is greater than ever before; the mileage of connecting canals is about 1600, the cost of which has been 170 millions of dollars. There is even serious discussion of making the entire Great Lakes system accessible to ocean carriers. The use of Canadian rivers in floating softwood logs from the forests to the mills has also been and continues to be an appreciable factor in maintaining the efficiency and low cost of Canada's leading lumbering and pulpwood industries.

Power and Irrigation.

The natural power available from Canadian streams at known sites is upwards of 40 million horsepower, of which approximately only one tenth is yet in use. Already great industries have been built up to utilize some of the more strategic of these sites. To develop and connect up this vast total would probably require a sum in excess of ten billions of dollars, and the industrial investment dependent on associated enterprises probably as much or more again.

While the amount of land requiring water for irrigation is in Canada relatively small compared with the size of the country, and is restricted to certain sections of the western provinces, the fact that water is available for diversion to a considerable part of it is very gratifying. The principal irrigation projects are in Alberta. In this area alone works have been constructed capable of irrigating 1,200,000 acres, while completed surveys show the feasibility of economically applying water to an additional area of approximately 500,000 acres. The number of miles of irrigating ditches is between five and six thousand.

Fisheries.

The inland fisheries under proper regulation offer remarkable possibilities for the basis of a permanent industry of great dimensions. The value of these fisheries to Canada is about five million dollars each year and there are still innumerable well stocked lakes which have never been commercially exploited. The value of the sport fishing is, of course, beyond appraisal, nor is that of those food fishes upon which native life in remote districts is so largely dependent.

Direct Industrial Consumption.

Water supply must of course always be considered in locating any plant, and in some industries, like the manufacture of paper or textiles, it is likely to be the most important consideration. A factory for the manufacture of clothing or of cigars may require little more water than that used for the individual needs of the workers and for cleaning workrooms; but a textile mill in which dyeing is done may use several million gallons of water each day.

The requirements as to quality of water also vary widely. Water used for cooling at steel plants or in some types of condensers at a power plant may be of almost any quality if it is not acid; but feed water for steam boilers should be either moderately free from suspended and dissolved mineral matter or easily made so. A paper mill that makes brown wrapping paper can use water of much poorer quality than is needed for a mill that makes fine white paper; but a plant that makes chemicals or drug products is forced to use distilled water almost exclusively in its manufacturing processes. Again, in certain activities the sanitary character of the water is the controlling factor. Thus the preparation of food products, represented by the industries of slaughtering and meat packing, canning and preserving, and the making of bread and other bakery products, must be carried on where the raw materials can be obtained most easily, where the products can most quickly reach the consumer, or where the combined transportation is a minimum; but here the sanitary character of the water used is of the greatest importance, and its chemical constituents may be a secondary consideration.

Other Factors.

There are many other factors which make Canadian waterways of vital economic concern to the country. Their scenic values in connection with tourist attractions is undoubtedly of vast importance. The value of waterfalls in the National Parks is already a subject of considerable discussion. Water supply is also a matter of great importance in mining, particularly in hydraulic operations. The lakes and rivers are a contributing factor in both summer and winter recreation. Canoeing, sailing, ice boating, skating, etc., appreciably contribute to the health of Canada's young people. Natural ice gave us our national game. The great sloughs and marshes give us some of our finest winged shooting and much of the fur wealth for which the Dominion has become so famous.

Everything considered, it may be safely claimed that Canada's streams and fresh water areas are an asset beyond appraisal and that their value to the nation will increase rather than diminish.

BRITISH TRADE WITH CHINA

The following figures, showing the vast British interests in China, have been specially supplied to the Sunday Express from an authoritative source:

"Export and import trade with Great Britain, £23,500,000 in 1925.

"Export and import trade with the British Empire, £34,000,000 in 1925.

"British Empire's China trade, 20 per cent. of China's trade.

"In Shanghai alone £63,250,000 of British capital invested.

"British holdings in Chinese loans not less than £20,000,000.

"British money in Chinese railways at least £20,000,000.

"British money altogether in China at least £250,000,000, and probably £300,000,000.

Pussywillows.

Is it a symbol of spring, or frost upon the winter branches? From a distance up the lane it seems to be fluttering of gray snow when the wind whistles. But no, the tapering branches bend gracefully beneath amethystine clusters, and play notes as sweet as violin music with the cargo of willow blossoms.

They are the first pussywillows—a soft gray bloom spread over streets and fields of Seattle's Beacon Hill. Little dark pods have burst from the resurgent patches of soft down, like the fur of Angora kittens, which give to landscape and road a mottled glance of spring.

Pussywillows are the first lamps lighted in Seattle, ere the crocus flames, and torches and tapers are lit on tree and hillside, in street, woodlands and gardens. Through rain-washed days they peep as rents in the opalescent background, they are tiny clearings in the mist, these little packs of cottonwool that float over the brush in glen and coppice with a filigree of stark but shapely branches.

How quickly spring comes to Seattle. It is a prank young January plays, to don these gifts of springtime so early in the new year, and strew the walks and lanes with harbingers of March and April elsewhere. The lad January is lavish with the willow blossoms where winter means but gentle rain and very little snow; often none at all.

They seem to announce, as the furclad branches salaam, the first coy step of Spring, her reconnaissance. Of course, there may be many hasty retreats, a venturing-in, a sortie, and an exit anew, ere spring comes to stay; to bring a bevy of her handmaidens, her trousseau of spring frocks to hang upon the trees, her millinery, and her many mirrors which reflect the annual glory of her beauty.

Priceless Liberty.

"He may send and take by force," said they,
This paltry sum of gold:
But the goodly gift of liberty
Can not be bought and sold.
—Spanish Ballad. Trans. by Longfellow.

When it Didn't Work.

"It's funny how flat a very polite remark falls when I make it," said the recruit.

"How's that?" asked the sergeant.

"Well, at the ball last night the captain got into the general's wife's good graces by asking her if she were her daughter or herself."

"Yes—"

"Well, it didn't work at all when I tried it out on her daughter."

The tallest known ferns exist in the Hawaiian Islands, where they grow to a height of 30 feet or 40 feet.

I Go Back Twenty Years.

I'm just an old fool, twenty years
we've been wed,
And the craziest notion came into my
head,
I remembered the way I'd made love
to her then,
And I thought to myself I'll just try
it again.

I'll court her once more in my old
foolish way,
Just to see how she'll act and to hear
what she'll say.

So I bought her some roses, a few in
a box,
Just by way of commencing my series
of shocks,
And all through the supper I looked at
her so,
With that sad, pensive look which all
young lovers know,
And I patted her hand and kept calling
her "dear"
And she said to the children: "You're
father is queer!"

I kissed her and rumpled her silver-
tinged hair,
Rubbed my beard on her cheek, and
she seemed not to care.
I said: "You are lovely! this wide
world around
I am sure that your equal could never
be found."
I praised the long lash on her eye's
lovely lid,
Thinking she wouldn't like all that
much—but she did!
—Edgar A. Guest.

First Atlantic Wireless.

Twenty-five years ago Senatore Marconi succeeded in sending the first wireless signal across the Atlantic from Poldhu to Newfoundland.

After spending some time on the Poldhu station, built for him by J. A. Fleming, Marconi determined to try a wireless message over the Atlantic, and on December 6th, 1901, he arrived in Newfoundland with two assistants and started operations in the old hospital building on Signal Hill.

As there was no time to erect masts to carry the aerial, the experiment was tried on an aerial suspended from a balloon. The balloons were subsequently blown away, but on December 12th a kite successfully carried 400 feet of wire and the first signals from far distant Poldhu were received. The "message" consisted of the letter "s" in Morse code—three dots—constantly repeated.

The following month the same apparatus was installed on board the S.S. Philadelphia, which, during a voyage to New York, successfully received signals from Poldhu up to distances exceeding 2,000 miles.

Marconi's first experiments began in 1895 on his father's farm at Bologna, when he succeeded in sending messages across the garden. In 1896 the distance increased to two miles, and then, realizing the enormous possibilities of his invention, he lost no time in going to England and protecting his work by patents.

More Wealth.

Winnipeg Tribune (Ind. Cons.): The Peace River country is destined to be one of Canada's chief glories, a vast and wealthy agricultural area contributing greatly to the nation's strength. The urgent need is to enable settlement to proceed as rapidly as may be. To that end branch railway lines are the first consideration. These are immediately necessary.

Wait.

An Irishman going to America was very sea-sick. His companion came down to his cabin and invited him to come up on deck to see a ship pass. "Don't bother me again," said the victim of mal de mer, "until you see a tree pass."

WORK

Thank God every morning that you have something to do that day which must be done whether you like it or not. Being forced to work and do your best will breed in you a hundred virtues which the idle never know.—Charles Kingsley.

Lost Girls in London.

Two thousand London girls are reported as "missing" every year, but only one in 500 remains untraced, and fewer than 10 per cent. remain unfound for more than a fortnight. Special officials are always engaged on the task of tracing these missing girls, and it is said that fifty per cent. should never have been reported as missing. Of the total of missing persons in the whole of England, fewer than two in every thousand are never heard of again.

Artists in Metal.

Blacksmith artists in China make landscapes and flowers out of the same metal that goes into wagon tires and horseshoes.

The Golfer's Rhapsody.

I'm starting to mutter, to fondle my
putter,
To roll 'em around on the mat,
I'm getting the feeling, I'm smashing
the ceiling,
I've golf-fever under my hat!

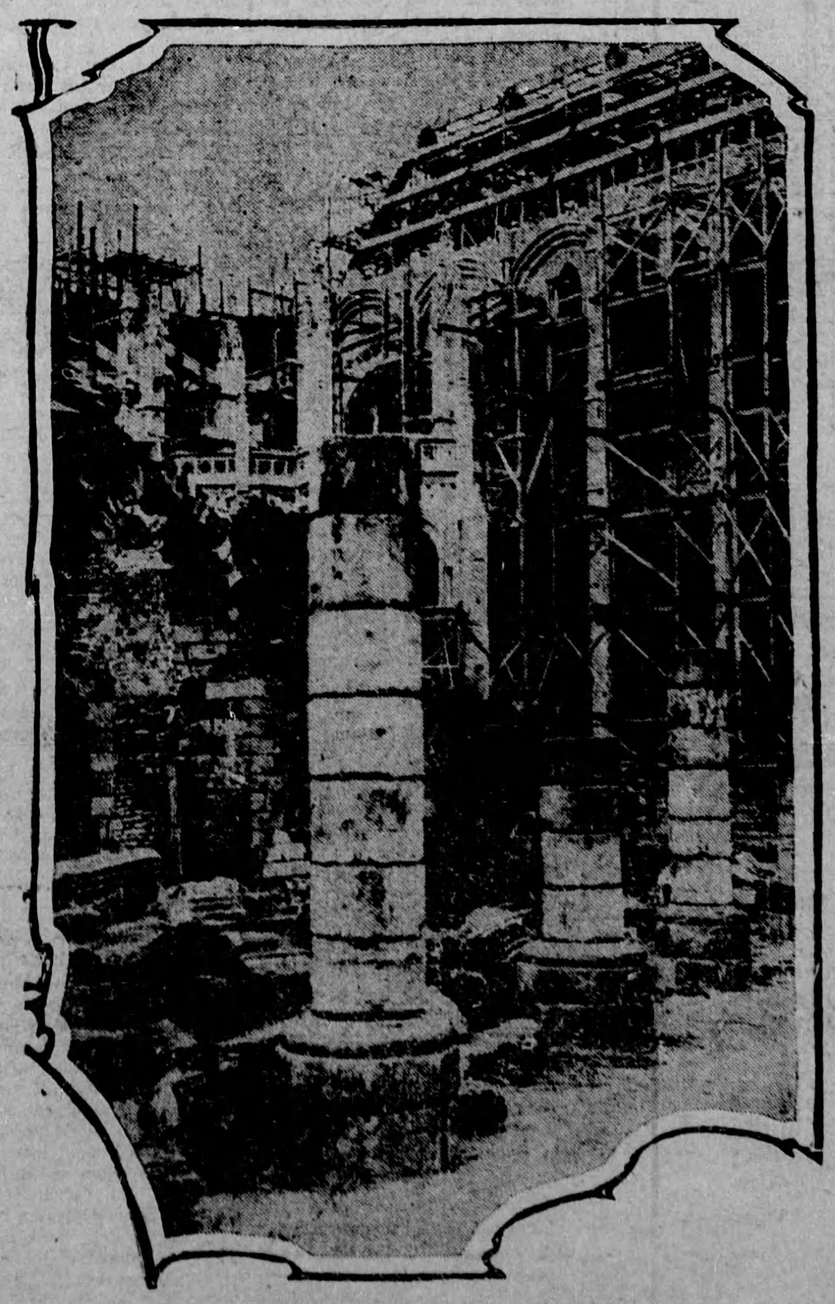
I'm using a bigger and whippier jigger,
I'm dropping 'em dead in the sink.
With sweet-sounding swishes I'm
breaking the dishes,
I'm putting the lights on the blink!

I'm swinging my brassy, like Vardon
or Massey,
I'm shooting 'em low with my cleek,
I'm curing my twister! I'm raising a
blister!
I'm beaning my wife on the beak!

I'm taking no chances on grips and on
stances,
I'm gaining my ultimate goal,
I'm sure and I'm steady, I'm getting all
ready—
To score about nine to a hole.
—London Opinion.

Your Duty.

Smuggling through the customs is an unpatriotic action, says a writer. People who do it forget their duty to their country.



RUINS OF YPRES CORN EXCHANGE

Which have been left exactly as they were in the days following the world war. Behind, the work of reconstruction on the Cathedral of St. Martin is going on.

Happy Bermuda.

After three centuries this little British colony still retains its Old World atmosphere, and one of its most potent charms is the simple, genuine, old-time hospitality of its inhabitants. How pleasant to be courteously handed in and out of the rowboat ferry, and to be greeted with "Good morning. A Happy New Year to you," by one and all. "Hope you are enjoying your visit here," says the perfect stranger. Of course you are, you already feel one of them, and love them and their beautiful islands.

Each snow-white coral house peeping through the cedars extends to you its "welcoming arms" — wide pink steps leading up to the porch. Such beautiful settings for the homes. Green lawns with palms and scarlet poinsettias abloom, hedges of pink, orange, and red hibiscus and avenues of white and pink oleanders leading down to white boats on a turquoise sea.

Are you surprised that no one hurries in Bermuda? Why hurry? There are no trains or trams to catch, no automobiles to dodge, or factory whistles to call to work. Only the noiseless bicycle or hubber-tired carriage with polite riders and drivers who move out of your way on the smooth white roads. There are the bluebirds and the redbirds and the chick-of-the-village to listen to and admire as they flit in and out of the Match-me-if-you-can croton hedges. Then there is the musical click-clack of horses' hoofs as the riders pass, and the boys who are always whistling; yes, and the frogs who tune up the orchestra at nightfall and whistle too.

Happy Bermuda, with its genial climate, its highways and byways which no pen can describe, its pink beaches, angel fish, crystal caves, sea gardens and seventeenth-century charm — veritable isles of rest and peace.

Convincing the Customer.

Customer (doubtful of guarantee)—"But will you really refund my money if these stockings are not found hole-proof?"

Assistant (convincingly)—"Madam, we are refunding money every day."

Huge spiders that devour small birds after catching them in trapdoor pitfalls have been discovered in the Amazon valley.